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ОПЕРАТИВНА ПРОГРАМА
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Application form of a concept note

Call 1

Territorial Strategy

INTERREG VI-A IPA Bulgaria Türkiye Programme

2021-2027

This duly filled in form must be annexed to the application form in Jems (<https://jems-bgtr.mrrb.bg/>) where applicants first need to register and then create own application from of the project idea/concept note. Please, follow the instructions how to do that, which are included in application package of the present Call 1.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE CONCEPT NOTES IN JEMS
24 July 2023, 17:00 EEST



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A.1 Project identification

Project ID: BGTR0200068

Name of the lead partner organization

(original language and English language): **Edirne İl Tarım Ve Orman Müdürlüğü, Edirne Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry**

Project title: **SUPPORT FOR NATURE RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES IN THE CROSS BORDER REGION**

Project acronym: **GREEN SPOTS**

B – Project partners

Enter Project Partners:

Trakya University Foundation, Municipality of Stambolovo, LAG Stambolovo-Kardzhali 54

C - Project description

C.1 Project overall objective

The Programme priority specific objective your project will contribute to (automatically generated in section A.1. of the application form in JeMS,):

SO5.2. Fostering the integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism and security, in areas other than urban areas

The Territorial Strategy's objective your project will contribute to:



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Strategic objective 1 “Achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth based on increased competitiveness of the local economy, digital and green transformation”

Now think about your main objective – what do you aim to achieve by the end of your project? Remember your project needs to contribute to the programme’s and the territorial strategy objective

1.2. Your objective should:

- be realistic and achievable by the end of the project, or shortly after;
- specify who needs project results and in which territory;
- be measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for

The project objective is: "Fostering integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental local development based on green transformation and digitalization, preservation of natural heritage, support for the development of sustainable production, tourism and security in the cross-border region."



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C.2 Project relevance and context

C.2.1. What are the common territorial challenge(s) that will be tackled by the project?

Please describe why your project is needed in the programme area and the relevance of your project for the programme area, in terms of common challenges and opportunities addressed. It is very important to think of that challenges as a potential and not obstacle to the development of the cross-border region. The ultimate objective of your project idea should not be the overcoming of impediments, but the need to strengthen and expand something (practice, model, solution) that have a potential for territorial cohesion of the border region.

The cross-border area is an area with active agricultural development. Its intensive development in recent years has led to the following adverse effects: deforestation of traditionally forest areas, degradation and pollution of soils, reduction of water supplies, reduction of biodiversity and climate change. Climate change is the most serious challenge for those living in the territory and the most serious threat to the environment and socio-economic development. As in terms of productivity of agricultural production, increasing fluctuations are registered due to their high degree of dependence on climatic conditions. These negative trends indirectly affect all other economic sectors. The registered negative trends require improved management of sustainable development of the territory, building of partnerships, applying of ecosystem practices and services for adapting farming practices to climate change, use of appropriate water-saving techniques, improved forestality and habitats, and reducing threats from fires, floods and natural disasters.

Edirne Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry employs 450 employees, mainly agronomists and vets. The Directorate works with 30,000 farmers. It is planned to completely renovate the buildings and technology of the fish station, owned by the Directorate. The current facility was built in 1974 and works on a very old technology, which consists of 5 pumps that pump the water into the 6 reservoirs. The condition of the hatchery, which has an area of 600 sq.m, is particularly poor. It is planned to replace the facility with the most advanced aquaculture production system, (RAS) RECIRCULATORY AQUACULTURE SYSTEM. Thus, it is intended to increase the production of young fish by 100% and to reach 20,000,000 per year. The new system will also reduce water consumption by 90%, resulting in savings of 18,000,000 litres of water. The RAS system will provide a stable and controlled environment for the fish (oxygen and temperature) that will allow production to become fully managed and optimized. The variety of fish will also be expanded. In addition to the currently cultivated carp, African catfish, tilapia and other types of fish will be added. There are 19 professors from different faculties of Trakya University, 1 associate professor and 1 assistant professor at the general assembly of the foundation. There are 42,439 students in all faculties of Trakya University, according to the data for 2021-2022. 1,223 of them are in the Faculty of Architecture, and 680 of them are in the Vocational School of Ipsala. The lecturers from Faculty of Architecture and the University's Ipsala Vocational High School will be assigned by Trakya University for the Foundation in the project. 22 teachers work at Ipsala Vocational High School. Also, the University's Civil Engineering Department has 22 employees consisting of architects, engineers and technicians who will be assigned on the role of developing the technical part of this project. The lecturers and specialists will develop the technical



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project for the construction of the fish station, advise on the application of the new technology, train and organize the advertising and explanatory activities, promoting the important topics of the green economy and ecology.

Municipality of Stambolovo is a typical rural municipality with a predominant agricultural sector, having a rich natural resource and biodiversity. On its territory, the municipality has 2 natural attractions, 3 protected areas and 3 protected zones. The municipal forest fund amounts to 9,088 ha or 80% of the total forest fund. Here is situated one of the most biologically rich areas, especially for birds that also fly into the Turkish part of the cross-border territory. The fires that have occurred in the last few years and the destroyed forest massifs lead to the need to afforest the burned parts and improve access to the protected areas to reduce the dangers of fires. The municipality plans various activities to build ecological infrastructure, which leads to the improvement of the soil, air and water, and is committed to ecological and social goals.

LAG Stambolovo-Kardjali 54 has been applying the Community-led local development (CLLD) approach for more than 5 years in the territory and has gained experience that is particularly important for building partnerships and developing the territory locally, regionally and at cross-border level.

The project aims, with the help of various investments, which are accompanied by innovative soft measures, to introduce new technologies and digitization of agricultural activity, economy of natural resources, protection of nature and creation of prerequisites for improvement of the ecology and biodiversity. The built cross-border system will unite the efforts of the main stakeholders and guarantee the necessary sustainability of the processes even after the end of the project.

C.2.2. How does the project tackle identified common challenges and/or opportunities and what is new about the approach the project takes?

Please describe new solutions that will be developed during the project and/or existing solutions that will be adopted and implemented during the project lifetime. Describe also in what way the approach goes beyond existing practice in the sector/programme area/participating countries. Definition of a solution in the context of integrated territorial development is provided in **Annex 4 Indicators fiches** under the description of output indicator **RCO116 Jointly developed solutions** and result indicator **RCR104 Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organizations**

The project will implement a pilot technical model that will promote the sustainable development of fish farms and fish production, and will support the creation of sustainable ecosystems that will become a favorable environment for the future development of sustainable agriculture. The activity of building the cross-border network will produce one solution. The objectives of the project are to implement activities that are based on the registered needs of farmers, dam concessionaires, those engaged in forestry, to implement joint actions to reduce pollution and ecological footprint and to provide clean air, water and food, to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to prevent the consequences of natural and man-made disasters. The use of a closed water cycle and the recirculation systems in the cultivation of fish stock will ensure control of water quality, its multiple use and reduced



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consumption, thus reducing the burden on the environment. Entrepreneurs and farmers will be trained and informed about the implementation of environmentally friendly production, the use of renewable sources, the application of green technologies, the introduction of recyclable production and shared services. The benefits of the green economy and partnerships will be promoted through a variety of advertising and training activities. In this way, the benefits of the green economy will spread to farmers, entrepreneurs, students and schoolchildren. Support for the development of ecological business in the cross-border territory is a key factor for its sustainable development, which will be complemented by some services such as: construction of a forest road that will improve access and reduce the risk of fires; restoring forests and creating ecosystems that promote biodiversity; construction of ecological infrastructure - hedges, planting rows and groups of trees, tree anti-erosion belts, which will create prerequisites for the protection of habitats, agricultural crops and will green the schoolyards; optimizing the management of water resources and expanding the separate collection of waste, building nesting spots and nests for birds, stocking the reservoirs on both sides of the border. All this will lead to an increase in the number of sport fishing enthusiasts and bird watchers. The created sustainable ecosystems will guarantee real conditions for sustainable development of the cross-border territory and for the development of ecological tourism. The project development process followed a bottom-up approach. To achieve complete synchronization in the development of the project, each partner conducted a survey of the interested parties (farmers and those employed in the forests) about the registered problems in the territory. 5 partner meetings were held in Edirne to identify joint solutions to improve the environment. The territorial tool was used: a working group, consulting, and gathering ideas for project activities. After the main decisions were clarified, steps were taken to exchange information that detailed the activities in sync with the objectives and interventions required by the program. Some of the partnerships have a history, such as Stambolovo Municipality and Stambolovo-Kardjali 54 LAG, which have been working together for 6 years. The municipality is a member of the General Assembly of the LAG. To date, under the Community-Led Local Development Strategy, two projects of the municipality and seven for farmers and entrepreneurs have been financed. Trakya University and the Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry have a current cooperation protocol from 04.02.2020. It aims to increase the professional experience of the relevant departments of the faculties, vocational schools and students in the areas of activity of the university and the provincial directorate, to facilitate the access of producers and businesses to innovation and to modern technological developments. The joining of the Bulgarian partners will expand the dissemination of scientific solutions and the introduction of innovations in agriculture and forestry. In this project, the foundation will undertake the building projects preparation and the cost schedules of the structures, as well as the structural control in the renovation of the new fish production facility. The Directorate will continue the activity of the site and the production of young fish on the basis of the renewed building fund and the introduction of the new technological line. The foundation will organize the activities related to the separate collection of waste, the trainings and consultations, and the Provincial Directorate will organize the participation of farmers, fish producers and forest officials in the training and information initiatives. The new partnerships on both sides of the border will further develop them and create prerequisites for exchange of knowledge and resources.



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C.2.2.1. What kind of main activities will be carried out to produce the project solutions and achieve the desired results?

Please, describe the main activities of the project idea and explain why they are needed to reach project results. You may support your presentation by shortly describing the intervention logic of your project idea – that is the logical linkages between the project objectives, the main project activities, the solution/s the activities bring in and their ultimate effects on the targeted territories, groups (population and institutions) and policy areas.

Name of the project activity <i>(The given opportunity to list 10 activities is not mandatory! Please, plan reasonable and justifiable number of main types of project activities)</i>	Description (max 3000 characters with spaces per activity): <i>Please, make sure you briefly outline the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- what the activity is about and why it is needed;- its cross-border relevance;- who is benefiting and in what way;- responsible partner for the implementation of the activity (make sure this information is compatible with the information provided in section B.1.6 'Partner motivation and contribution' of the application form in JeMS);- Location of the physical investment (please, specify where the investment will be located)
1. Management, coordination and communication.	The activity provides for the management of the project activities, the achievement of the results, the implementation of the indicators and the objectives of the project. This activity is fundamental for the effective implementation of the project, without its implementation the necessary project success cannot be achieved. It requires the provision of ongoing direct contacts, good communication and coordination of actions and efforts in all areas and in the implementation of all activities. Moreover, the various cross-border activities are not only interconnected, but also integrated. The lead partner will appoint a project manager, a coordinator, an accountant and 1 communication expert who will feed project information to the lead partner's website and maintain social networks: Facebook and YouTube. The remaining partners will each appoint one coordinator and one accountant. The manager and



	<p>coordinators will organize the project activities, report the results in the electronic system, maintain constant contacts with each other and participate in the partner meetings. The accountants will monitor the correct spending of the budget funds, will post and upload the project's financial documents to JeMS. They will be accountable to their direct supervisors for their activities.</p> <p>Each partner will have to make a sign and a banner for the project. The sign will denote the office where the team works, and the banner will be used in every project event. In order to achieve optimal implementation of the project activities, it is planned to hold four partner meetings where each partner will host one partner meeting. At these meetings, two representatives of each partner's team will be present, the achievements to date will be reported and upcoming activities will be discussed. The decisions taken will be binding on each of the partners.</p> <p>At the end of the project, a Final Conference will be held in the village of Stambolovo on the topic: "The Green Economy - Opportunities and Prospects". It will be attended by 40 people, not only representatives of the partners, but also some of the identified members of the cross-border partner network. At it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A lecture will be given on the topic of the green economy and in particular on green agriculture and its future development;- The results of the project and the achieved cross-border results will be reported;- All documents regulating the sustainable development of the partnership after the end of the project will be accepted; the following will also be adopted: the Regulations for the joint work of the members of the village network; The cross-border one-year partnership plan for the
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	<p>development of cross-border green initiatives and the Cross-border strategy for sustainable development of the territory. The cross-border connection will be maintained at all times by the partner contacts so that the planned project activities are successfully implemented.</p>
2. Design and implementing construction works	<p>Architects and engineers who will be assigned for the Foundation will prepare the necessary architectural, mechanical, electrical projects and approximate costs of the buildings to be renovated in Ipsala Fish farm. They will also carry out control during construction.</p> <p>The Fishery Production Station - Ipsala is owned by the Privicial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry and was built in 1974. Over the years it has depreciated and is currently in a rather poor condition. The project plans to carry out construction and repair activities of the fish farming infrastructure and to repair and renovate part of the buildings of Ipsala station. It consists of 4 buildings, including an administrative building, a warehouse building, a hatchery and a security cabin. The condition of the hatchery is particularly poor. It is also planned to repair some of the buildings and the pool. Repair and renewal of the fences is planned. Security systems will be installed to protect fish populations. Currently, some of the fences, facilities and netting systems that protect the pools are damaged. This gives wildlife and hunters access to the water pools, resulting in damage to the fish population. Small fish are especially endangered. After the repair of the fence, security will be increased, as it is planned to put nets in the pools and install security cameras in certain places. All this will improve the production environment for fish farming and reduce the losses of the fish farm, which is of regional importance for the development of fish farming not only in</p>



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	<p>the Edirne region, but also in the entire cross-border region.</p> <p>The municipality of Stambolovo will be responsible for the construction of the forest road in the land of the village of Vodentsi. It will be 1,060 m long and will be built on land owned by the municipality. The completion of this road will ensure: easy access to natural attractions and forest resources: timber, mushrooms, herbs, etc. Conditions will be created for the development of forest and ecological tourism, mainly the monitoring of the rich bird diversity in the Eastern Rhodopes will increase. Its construction will support the forest management process by improving tree cultivation, facilitating forest inventories, improving fire protection and facilitating access to firefighting equipment. The forest road will be used to monitor the forest massifs and to track illegal logging, as well as monitor illegal forestry practices. Transport and logistics in the area will also be eased, as it will reduce transport problems related to the export of forest products and materials, which will reach the major roads in the region more quickly.</p> <p>The municipality will also build 3,000 m of mineralized strips, which are part of the preventive measures, and therefore they will be important in the fight against forest fires. Artificially created strips, cleared from the vegetation will help to more easily locate the flames in the event of fires.</p>
3. Establishing a Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) in hatches and pools	<p>Establishing a Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) in hatches and pools . Both the buildings and the facilities (the technological line) for fish farming have been in existence since 1974. Until now, very old technology has been used, which leads to a great waste of water resources. The outdated technology will be renewed with the most modern aquaculture production system, Recirculatory</p>



	<p>Aquaculture System (RAS) Through its renewal, the production of young fish will increase by more than 100% and reach 20,000,000 small fish per year. The water consumption will be reduced by 90% and 18,000,000 liters of water will be saved. The RAS will provide a stable and controlled fish environment allowing for optimal and fully managed production of carp, African catfish, tilapia and other fish species. Currently, only carp are farmed.</p> <p>The RAS system consists of the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquarium;• Mechanical filter;• Biological filter;• Pump tank;• Pump;• Other elements (e.g. UV-C light, oxygenators, ventilation devices, feeders, monitoring, etc. <p>During the entire period, there will be ongoing consultation during the implementation of the water-saving technology and the innovative model by the specialists from the Trakya University Foundation.</p> <p>This system will fully serve small fish production. The increased production will lead to an increase in the volumes of fish material with which the reservoirs will be stocked. At the moment, more than 1,000 reservoirs are being stocked on the territory of Turkey. The new technology will allow increasing their number on Turkish territory. In addition, it will be possible to provide about 250,000 fish for the reservoirs of the Stambolovo municipality, and an administrative solution will be sought for crossing the border. The concessionaire dams entrepreneurs in the municipality of Stambolovo will be trained on the advantages of the new technology and will be able to visit Ipsala to see first-hand the</p>
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	<p>work of the fish station. Thus, in the future, they will be able to benefit from such technology in fish farming. Project activities will improve fish production in the cross-border area and increase the number of angling enthusiasts on both sides of the border and increase the number of tourists. The most advanced aquaculture production system is digital. It is necessary to improve the production environment, the competitiveness in fish production and the protection of farmed fish. Improved access to forested areas and mineralized strips will reduce forest fire hazards and increase economic and environmental benefits. The cross-border connection is direct. It will be expressed in the exchange of know-how and experience during the training trip and in the provision of stocking material for the Bulgarian reservoirs. The Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry - Edirne and the municipality of Stambolovo will be responsible for this activity.</p>
4. Creation of sustainable ecosystems in the cross-border region	<p>The Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry - Edirne will plant 5 decares of acacia saplings in the pasture of Fatih District and Ipsala District. In addition, a green area of 100 decares of pasture plants will be created, which will be planted on the pasture of Bostepe village, Keshan district. A water fountain will also be built to be used by grazing and wild animals.</p> <p>20 stork nests will be placed on electricity poles in the villages of Ipsala and Enez along the bird's migration route.</p> <p>Trakya University Foundation will plant saplings of sycamore and linden on a total of 6 decares of land in the Balkan Campus of Trakya University and in the Garden of the Ipsala Vocational High School, and additional green areas will be formed on the campuses.</p> <p>The municipality of Stambolovo will carry out afforestation activities on an area of 5</p>



	<p>decares in the land of the villages of Svetoslav and Pchelari. Hedges and trees will be planted in the school and kindergarten yards, tree anti-erosion belts will be created in the plain parts to reduce the effects of winds and snow. This ecological infrastructure will create prerequisites for the protection of agricultural crops, habitats and water bodies. The tree seedlings will be infected with a mycelium, thus creating an additional income opportunity for the local population interested in picking truffles.</p> <p>In the forest, nesting boxes will be placed in the forest areas in order to attract and support rare species, such as the blue grouse.</p> <p>Forests will play an important role in the sustainable development of the cross-border territory due to the achievement of the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Conditions in forest ecosystems that support biodiversity will improve;- Air quality will improve as forests absorb harmful carbon emissions and generate oxygen. Through photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. This reduces the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, improves air quality, and prevents health problems
5. Separate waste collection and cleaning of natural attractions.	<p>The separate waste collection has started to a certain extent in the Trakya University campuses , in the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry and in some villages of the municipality of Stambolovo. The planned initiatives for this activity will create prerequisites for the activity to expand, further develop and cover a larger part of the population.</p> <p>The Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry will purchase 40 waste containers of 800 l each. It will place two containers in 19 villages of Ipsala district, and the</p>



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	<p>remaining two will be placed in the aquaculture production station. Waste will be collected from these places 5 days a week by the Ipsala Village Service Union and transported to the modern waste storage and sorting area of the GÜNEKAB South Edirne Solid Waste Association in the Paşayığıt Village of Keşan District, where the waste will be sorted to obtain biogas needed to produce electricity.</p> <p>Trakya University Foundation will take a set of zero-waste recycling bins (plastic, glass and paper waste) consisting of one hundred 70 liter plastic buckets, which will be placed in the interior and exterior spaces of Trakya University central campus and the foundation's administrative centre. Waste collection services are provided by municipalities and rural service unions.</p> <p>Currently containers for separate collection of waste have been delivered by Stambolovo municipality in 10 villages. According to the project, it is planned to include the remaining 16 settlements, and 3 containers for separate collection of plastic, glass and paper waste will be placed in each settlement. Waste collection is planned to be done by the municipality, which will hand over the separated waste for recycling. LAG Stambolovo-Kardjali 54, will collect waste separately only in its office.</p> <p>The association will organize the cleaning of the Arda riverbed under the slogan: "Let's clean up nature for one day". Cleaning will be organized once a year or 2 times within the project.</p> <p>The population of 19 villages from the Ipsala district and 16 villages from the Stambolovo municipality will benefit the most from this activity. To this population the students at the Trakya University and the students at the Vocational High School in Ipsala will be added, making about 40,000 people. A cross-border connection will be</p>
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	<p>implemented by carrying out the same activities and exchanging experience in the separate collection of waste. The experience of Trakya University Foundation in this field is the greatest and it will be used in the organization of the separate gathering by the other partners. The responsibility for this activity lies with all partners, as LAG Stambolovo-Kardzhali 54. is responsible for the mass organization of the cleaning of the Arda River. The association will be supported by the municipality of Stambolovo in organizing the cleaning.</p>
6. Collecting plastic bottle caps	<p>In everyday life plastic water containers are most commonly used. Until now they have been thrown away in common containers and thus end up in the landfill. There is no established culture and conditions for their gathering. For this purpose, cap containers will be placed in front of the administrative, foundation and university buildings. The aim of this activity is to create sustainable habits especially among young people on both sides of the border by promoting this social idea among the high school and university students.</p> <p>In the municipality of Stambolovo, one container will be placed in front of the municipality, which is located in a common building together with the Secondary school "St. Kliment Ohridski" and one container will be placed in front of the school in the village of Silen.</p> <p>The Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry - Edirne will place such a container in front of the Administrative Building where the administration of the Directorate is located and one in front of the Trakya University Foundation.</p> <p>In order to activate the local population and especially the young people, representatives of Trakya University Foundation will visit all faculties to present</p>



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	<p>the new opportunity and clarify its usefulness for people in need.</p> <p>Representatives of the Stambolovo-Kardjali 54 LAG will visit the four schools in the municipality to carry out an explanatory campaign on the subject.</p> <p>This activity will mainly benefit people in need, because after the handover of caps by the teenagers, the administration and the population will be able to support socially vulnerable people from the territory. In addition, settlements will not be polluted with additional waste.</p>
7. Development of advertising and information materials and website maintenance.	<p>In order to promote the project, its results and target topics, the following advertising and information materials will be developed and printed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Handbook entitled "Green Agriculture and Green Agricultural Practices" - The handbook will have a volume of 32 pages and will reflect European innovations and requirements in the field of green agriculture. Good European practices in this direction will also be published. The handbook will be translated into Turkish and English and will be printed in all 3 languages in an edition of 150 copies.- A brochure with the title: "Separate collection of waste - mission possible", which will present the separate collection of waste in an easy and understandable way and will serve to inform the local population when expanding the scope of separate waste collection. The brochure will be 12 pages long and will have translations in Turkish and English. It will be in color and will be printed in an edition of 150 copies in each language.- The diploma for the project will also be in color and will be translated into 3 languages: Bulgarian, Turkish and English. The circulation in Bulgarian and Turkish will be 500 copies, and the circulation in English - 200.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A 5-minute film about the benefits of the green economy will be produced, which will be in Bulgarian and Turkish.- 10 publications (5 in each country) will be printed in the regional media or in the information sites related to the project, its results and the topics of the green economy.- There will also be an advertising campaign that will improve awareness among farmers, forest owners and forestry workers on both sides of the border involved in the implementation of green models in agriculture and forestry. Promotional materials will be distributed to interested parties and the film will be screened during training initiatives.- The communication expert will collect materials from all partners and upload them to the website of the Lead Organization. It will support social networks: Facebook and YouTube. <p>In this way, through the distribution of advertising and information materials and the use of the Internet and social media, around 100,000 stakeholders on both sides of the border will be reached.</p> <p>A cross-border connection will be continuous throughout the development of the advertising materials and during their distribution. LAG Stambolovo-Kardzhali 54 and Expert Communication will be responsible for this activity. All other partners will participate in the advertising campaign by distributing the advertising materials to interested parties and publishing some of them on their own websites.</p>
8. Training of farmers, forest owners and those employed in forestry.	<p>The activity includes 4 one-day seminars with 20 participants each. Two seminars will be held in Edirne Region and two in the village of Stambolovo. In addition to local lecturers, one lecturer from the other side of the border will be invited to the seminars. In this way, there will be an exchange of</p>



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	<p>knowledge and practices among the trainees. The seminars will introduce stakeholders to the principles and concepts of the green economy, such as the circular economy, resource conservation and carbon footprint reduction. Participants will learn about the relationship between agriculture and environmental protection, about the management of natural resources, such as: water, energy and ecosystem services, about organic agriculture, etc. The acquired knowledge and increased awareness will lead to a change in their behavior and will strengthen their interest in the ecological sustainability of agriculture and forestry. LAG Stambolovo-Kardzhali 54 will be responsible for the seminars on the Bulgarian territory, and Trakya University Foundation will be responsible for the Turkish territory.</p> <p>It is also planned to organize two three-day training trips with 10 people each (each partner must provide 5 participants or a total of 10 participants from the Bulgarian side and 10 from the Turkish side). MIG Stambolovo-Kardjali 54, will host one training and participate in one training in Turkey. The Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry in Edirne will host 10 Bulgarian agricultural producers and forestry workers and will send 10 persons from Turkey to Bulgaria. Each host organization will develop a Training Program that will include: visits to the sites built according to the project; holding discussions in which 10 local farmers will participate. At these discussion meetings, issues related to the problems of the sector will be discussed and joint solutions will be sought for their elimination. The program will also have to include a tour of several farms located in the cross-border territory. The responsibility for 2 seminars and 2 educational trips (sending off and meeting) will be held by the</p>
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	Stambolovo-Kardjali 54 LAG. Trakya University Foundation will be responsible for – 2 seminars. The two partners will also be responsible for the exchange of lecturers. The Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry in Edirne will be responsible for the organization of the two training trips (sending and hosting).
9. Click or tap here to enter text.	Click to enter description
10. Click or tap here to enter text.	Click to enter description

C.2.2.2. To which indicators your project idea will contribute?

Please, select, from the drop-down menu, pairs of indicators to which your project idea contribute and briefly explain how is that going to be ensured. Make sure you have consulted the **Annex 4 Indicators fiches** provided in the Application package of the present Call.

Indicator Pairs	Specification:
RCO84 - RCO116 - RCR104	The project generates one pilot action developed jointly and this is: Establishing a Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) in hatches and pools in the fish station in Ipsala, its promotion among fish farmers and dam concessionaires in Stambolovo and the provision of 250,000 small fish for stocking the dams.
RCO74	26,507 farmers who are members and 346 who are employees of the Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry in Edirne; 1,500 fish farmers in Turkey and 20 in Stambolovo; 12,000 farmers and forestry workers will directly benefit from the effect of the afforestation activities and the separate waste collection. 23,000 school and university students; sports fishing enthusiasts will grow to 5,000 . Bird watchers of 6,000 people or a total of



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	51,373 people;a minimum of 100,000 informed people.
N/A	Click to enter text (max 500 characters)
N/A	Click to enter text (max 500 characters)

C.2.3. Why is cross-border cooperation needed to achieve the project's objectives and result?

Please explain why the project objectives cannot be efficiently reached acting only on a national/regional /local level and/or describe what benefits the project partners/target groups/project area/programme area gain in taking a cross-border approach.

The interventions planned, coordinated and implemented centrally by the government are no longer sufficient to address the complex challenges of the cross-border regions.

The objectives of the project cannot be achieved effectively if acting only at national, regional or local level, because the environment covers the entire cross-border region and its pollution on one side of the border will inevitably affect the other. Conversely, its improvement will improve the environment on both sides of the border.

The main objective of the project is "Fostering of integrated and inclusive social, economic and ecological local development based on green transformation and digitalization, protection of natural heritage, support for the development of sustainable production, tourism and security in the cross-border region".

Specific objectives:

- Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the agricultural and forestry sectors of the cross-border area.
- Promotion of sustainable development and climate neutrality of the regions on both sides of the border;
- Creation of a sustainable cross-border territorial network;
- Preservation and protection of forests and biodiversity;
- Increasing cross-border ecotourism potential.

The implementation of the following project activities: Management, coordination and communication; Designing and carrying out construction activities; Establishing a Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) in hatches and pools; Creation of sustainable ecosystems in the cross-border region; Separate waste collection and cleaning of natural attractions; Collecting plastic bottle caps; Creation of a cross-border network for sustainable development and support of green



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agriculture in the cross-border region; Development of advertising, information materials and maintenance of sites and Training of farmers, forest owners and forestry workers will ensure the achievement of both the main and specific objectives of the project, because they are interrelated.

Public, scientific and NGO participants have a shared interest that leads to economic and integrated territorial development. In every project activity there is a cross-border connection and common benefit for the beneficiaries on both sides of the border. The project develops activities that are important to rural areas, where prosperity depends on the capacity to mobilize people and local resources, while at the same time developing locational factors that make living and economic conditions more attractive to people and rural economy. The planned and implemented measures in the project will increase not only their effectiveness, but also the effectiveness of the package of measures as a whole.

The horizontal policies of cross-border cooperation are also implemented, according to which each supported intervention includes appropriate actions that contribute to the protection of the environment and biodiversity and provide green and digital solutions. Here, the integrated approach is used to support multi-sectoral interventions, enabling different communities and stakeholders to apply their local skills and strengths and to have a sense of ownership of the decisions that are made jointly.

The partnerships of NGOs, especially in a relationship with public institutions including scientific unit, such as the Trakya University Foundation, will have a favorable impact on the development of the territory, because it will provide direct access to innovations, scientific discoveries, up-to-date information and new approaches that will change more rapidly their motivation and attitudes to support agricultural and forestry farmers, to increase their direct commitments to the sustainable development of the territory and to the protection of the environment and biodiversity. Bringing partners together will increase their resources and expertise. The built partnerships will multiply the project results, create conditions for the emergence of additional partnerships and new opportunities for the local economy and, above all, for agriculture and forestry. The exchange of experience, knowledge, know-how and the use of innovative solutions will increase the added value of the results achieved by the target groups in the application of the cross-border approach.

The cross-border region covered by the project is a functionally connected territory where cross-border cooperation is important and which contributes to the balanced territorial development of the region by responding to local needs and realizing local potential.

C.2.4. Who will benefit from your project outputs?

In the first column of each row, please select one of the pre-defined target groups from the drop-down list. In the second column explain in more detail exactly who and how will benefit from your project, as well as the link between project needs, expected results and target groups.

Target groups

Specification:



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Sectoral agency

T.R. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Edirne Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry has 26,507 farmers. If we add to them the workers employed in forestry, their number increases. This is the main target group to which the measures and services that the project will provide are directed. It is supplemented by agricultural producers from Haskovo Region. They will benefit from the fish stocking, from the trainings and from the exchange of experience and knowledge.

Infrastructure and service provider

The project will build infrastructure and provide services that are important for: sports fishermen, for bird watchers, for forest fire protection and will facilitate the access of forest workers to forest areas. Afforestation and greening, separate collection of waste will provide clean air, water and soil to the population living near the forested areas.

Click to select

Click to enter text (max 500 characters)

Click to select

Click to enter text (max 500 characters)

Click to select

Click to enter text (max 500 characters)

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Click to enter text (max 500 characters)

C.2.5. How does the project contribute to regional/national/local strategies and policies?

Please indicate to which strategies and policies your project will contribute. Then describe in what way you will contribute.

Regional/national/local strategies	Contribution (max 500 characters with spaces per strategy)
The National Development Program Bulgaria 2030	Targeted policies and interventions are grouped into five interconnected and integrated axes of development, to the achievement of which the project contributes: Innovative and intelligent Bulgaria; Green and sustainable Bulgaria; Connected and integrated Bulgaria; Responsive and fair Bulgaria and Spiritual and vibrant Bulgaria



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T.R. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY 2021-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN - TURKEY	Purpose 3: "Protecting fisheries and aquaculture resources, ensuring their sustainable operation" Purpose Related Program/Subprogram: Agriculture/ Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources Conservation and Sustainability Agricultural Research and Development.
"Environment" program for the period 2021-2027..	Support actions are aimed at promoting sustainable water management, transition to a circular economy with efficient use of resources, prevention of the generation of household waste, construction of preparation centers for reuse, waste recycling, separate collection and recycling systems, infrastructural measures for collection, disposal and purification of wastewater, as well as reduction of air pollution from domestic heating and transport.

C.2.6. How does the project build on available knowledge?

Please describe the experiences/lessons learned that the project draws on, and other available knowledge the project capitalizes on.

Strengthening the cooperation between authorities, civil society, business organizations and research institutions on the priority topics of cross-border cooperation is essential to maintain and build additional capacity of partners. Based on this understanding, we have established partnership relationships between: the Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry in Edirne, the Trakya University Foundation in Edirne, the municipality of Stambolovo and the Stambolovo-Kardzhali 54 LAG. These partnership relationships provide close cooperation in the study of the problems of the cross-border territory, in the preparation of the project proposal, in joint decision-making, in the distribution of responsibilities and in the use of new approaches such as the Leader/Community-Led Local Development approach. In addition, the project envisages the construction of a partner cross-border network for sustainable development, which will continue cooperation after the end of the project based on the developed joint strategy and action plan. The Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry will carry out the renovation work at the Ipsala fish breeding station and introduce new water-saving technology in the station's hatchery. It will reforest, organize the educational trip, organize the separate collection of waste and plastic caps, organize an advertising campaign among its members, improve biodiversity and ensure the ongoing relationship between



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partners. Trakya University Foundation will design the construction works, consult on the new technology line, reforest, assist in building the cross-border network, expand separate waste collection and train. The municipality of Stambolovo will build the forest road and mineralized strips, reforest, organize separate collection of waste and plastic caps, improve biodiversity, and stock part of its reservoirs with fish. LAG Stambolovo-Kardjali 54 will ensure the implementation of the VOMR on the territory, organize the cleaning of the territory, separate waste collection, build the cross-border network, organize the training and exchange of groups during the training trip, create the advertising materials and organize the advertising campaign.

The partnership between the various stakeholders in the cross-border region will stimulate the development of agricultural and forestry development. The joint project will improve production and environmental infrastructure, the business climate, promote the implementation of innovations in agriculture and expand cooperation between stakeholders on both sides of the border. The results of the project will lead to the protection of the environment, biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Making joint efforts to protect ecosystems, fight against pollution and waste of water resources, improve air quality and develop sustainable agriculture and a clean environment in populated areas are the result of the planned project activities and established partnership relationships.

The sustainability of decisions made regarding cross-border cooperation is directly related to multi-level governance as a principle and driver of innovation and good practices. This requires regular stakeholder forums on important topics of green economy, digitalization and environmental protection, which we have planned. This includes the development of formats that address and conceptualize topics through active communication, exchange of experiences, and practical alliances. The various capacity of the individual partners, the various expertise, experience, knowledge and practices that each one of them possesses will be a good basis for their exchange and their promotion among the wider local community.

The partners will cooperate not only in the implementation of the project, but also in a broader perspective, moving between sectors and beyond administrative boundaries and establishing mutually supportive cross-border networks and interdependencies to eliminate socio-economic differences and achieve the maximum in uniting territorial resources based on commonalities and partnership.



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C.3 Project partnership

Describe the structure of your partnership and explain why these partners are needed to implement the project and to achieve project objectives. Justify the balanced structure of the partnership in terms of addressed target groups, sectors, territory. Explain how project partners' competences correspond with the assigned responsibilities.

Strengthening the cooperation between authorities, civil society, business organizations, and research institutions on the priority topics of cross-border cooperation is essential to maintain and build additional capacity of partners. Based on this understanding, we have established partnership relationships between: the Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry in Edirne, the Trakya University Foundation in Edirne, the municipality of Stambolovo and the Stambolovo-Kardzhali 54 LAG. These partnership relationships provide close cooperation in the study of the problems of the cross-border territory, in the preparation of the project proposal, in joint decision-making, in the distribution of responsibilities and in the use of new approaches such as the Leader/Community-Led Local Development approach. In addition, the project envisages the construction of a partner cross-border network for sustainable development, which will continue cooperation after the end of the project based on the developed joint strategy and action plan. The Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry will carry out the renovation work at the Ipsala fish breeding station and introduce new water-saving technology in the station's hatchery. It will reforest, organize the educational trip, organize the separate collection of waste and plastic caps, organize an advertising campaign among its members, improve biodiversity and ensure the ongoing relationship between partners. Trakya University Foundation will design the construction works, consult on the new technology line, reforest, assist in building the cross-border network, expand separate waste collection and train. The municipality of Stambolovo will build the forest road and mineralized strips, reforest, organize separate collection of waste and plastic caps, improve biodiversity, and stock part of its reservoirs with fish. LAG Stambolovo-Kardjali 54 will ensure the implementation of the CLLD on the territory, organize the cleaning of the territory, separate waste collection, build the cross-border network, organize the training and exchange of groups during the training trip, create the advertising materials and organize the advertising campaign.

The partnership between the various stakeholders in the cross-border region will stimulate the development of agricultural and forestry development. The joint project will improve production and environmental infrastructure, the business climate, promote the implementation of innovations in agriculture and expand cooperation between stakeholders on both sides of the border. The results of the project will lead to the protection of the environment, biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Making joint efforts to protect ecosystems, fight against pollution and waste of water resources, improve air quality and develop sustainable agriculture and a clean environment in populated areas are the result of the planned project activities and established partnership relationships.

The sustainability of decisions made regarding cross-border cooperation is directly related to multi-level governance as a principle and driver of innovation and good practices. This requires regular



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The partners will cooperate not only in the implementation of the project, but also in a broader perspective, moving between sectors and beyond administrative boundaries and establishing mutually supportive cross-border networks and interdependencies to eliminate socio-economic differences and achieve the maximum in uniting territorial resources based on commonalities and partnership.

1. Lead partner

Signature:

(Legal representative)

Date:

2. Project Partner 1

Signature:

(Legal representative)

Date:

3. Project Partner 2

Signature:

(Legal representative)

Date:

4. Project Partner 3

Signature:



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(Legal representative)

Date:

Add as many signature fields as the number of project partners is

Project ID
(automatically generated by JeMS)
Project name
Project acronym

BGTR0200068
SUPPORT FOR NATURE RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS GREEN SPOTS

Indicative project budget (budget forecast) - overview per partner / per cost category (EUR), VAT included

Budget cost categories		BC1		BC2		BC3		BC4		BC5		BC6		BC7		TOTAL BUDGET			
Partner No and name <small>(if the concept note has more than 10 project partners, contact the Operational Unit and they will provide you with a budget template adjusted to the exact number of partners)</small>	Country	Staff costs <small>(staff costs for project management – up to 10% of the eligible costs under BC 4, BC 5 and BC 6 of the entire project budget of the respective project partner or staff costs including project implementation – up to 20%)</small>		% of the eligible costs under BC 4, BC 5 and BC 6 of the entire project budget of the respective project partner		Office and administration <small>(up to 15 % of staff costs)</small>		% of staff costs		Travel and accommodation <small>(up to 5 % of the staff costs)</small>		% of the staff costs		External expertise and services			Investment component should be no less than 60% of the total budget		Lump sums <small>(full project preparation cost, eligible at the submission of full project proposals - up to 12 000 per application)</small>
LP	Türkiye	39560.00	10.00%	5934.00	15.00%	320.00	0.81%	10900.00	130700.00	254000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	441414					
PP1	Türkiye	5005.00	10.00%	750.75	15.00%	120.00	2.40%	34050.00	6000.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55925.75					
PP2	Bulgaria	39188.00	10.00%	5878.20	15.00%	320.00	0.82%	9180.00	24000.00	358700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	437256.2					
PP3	Bulgaria	5720.00	10.00%	858.00	15.00%	280.00	4.90%	57050.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	64058					
PP4			0.00%		0.00%		0.00%							0					
PP5			0.00%		0.00%		0.00%							0					
PP6			0.00%		0.00%		0.00%							0					
PP7			0.00%		0.00%		0.00%							0					
PP8			0.00%		0.00%		0.00%							0					
PP9			0.00%		0.00%		0.00%							0					
PP10			0.00%		0.00%		0.00%							0					
Total		89473		13420.95		1040		111180	160950	622700	0.00	0.00	0.00	998663.95					
% of Total budget		8.96%		1.34%		0.10%		11.13%	16.11%	79.46%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100%					

1. Lead partner

